

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 233050

FOR NIMETZ/VEST/SPIERS/LEDSKY

FOLLOWING ANKARA 7138 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS NICOSIA
ADANA ISTANBUL IZMIR USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES SEPT 26, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS ANKARA 7138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF TURKISH OIL PROSPECTING PLANS

REF: ANKARA 5451 (DTG 210615Z JUL 77)

1. MOST SEPT. 25 TURKISH PAPERS CARRIED STORY ON ANNOUNCEMENT
BY TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION (TPAO) DIRECTOR GENERAL MEHMET
GOLHAN THAT TPAO PLANS TO DRILL FOR OIL AT FIVE LOCATIONS IN
TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN SEA AND SEA OF
MARMARA. DRILLING MAY BE DONE WITH A RENTED DRILLING PLAT-
FORM, BUT THE TURKS PLAN TO BUY A PLATFORM IF THE NUMBER OF
SITES RISES, AS ANTICIPATED. ALL DEPENDS ON ANALYSIS OF DATA
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ALREADY GATHERED BY TURKISH SEISMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIP
SISMIK-I (HORA) ALONG BLACK SEA COAST, AS WELL AS
DATA TO BE GATHERED BY THE SISMIK IN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS
IN THE AEGEAN AND THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM OCT. 1 UNTIL THE END OF
THE YEAR.

2. OF THE FIVE SITES CHOSEN FOR DRILLING, ONE IS IN THE BAY

OF SAROZ, TWO ARE BETWEEN IZMIR AND AYVALIK, ONE IS NEAR THE KAPIDAG PENINSULAR (MARMARA) AND ONE IS 18 KM OFF MUREFTE (MARMARA). GOLHAN ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT TPAO CONSIDERS THE AKCAKOCA AREA (WESTERN BLACK SEA COAST) AND THE AREA "BETWEEN ISKENDERUN AND CYPRUS" TO BE VERY PROMISING.

3. EARLIER PLANS TO USE THE DRILLING SHIP GLOMAR, OWNED BY THE US FIRM GLOBAL MARINE, FELL THROUGH, ACCORDING TO GOLHAN, BECAUSE TPAO HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CLEAR NUMEROUS BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND BECUASE THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PAY FOR THE GLOMAR'S SERVICES. GLOBAL MARINE HAD THEREFORE GIVEN UP AND MOVED THE GLOMAR ON TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. IF THE NUMBER OF SITES TO BE DRILLED REACHES A CERTAIN NUMBER (EIGHT TO NINE IN ONE VERSION, FIFTEEN IN ANOTHER), TURKEY WILL BUY ITS OWN DRILLING PLATFORM RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO RENT ONE AGAIN. DILLON UNQUOTE VANCE

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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